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Sixty-ninth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 27 (a)
Advancement of women

Philippines: draft resolution

Trafficking in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which constitutes a serious threat to human dignity, human rights and development,

Recalling all international conventions that deal specifically with and address issues relevant to the problem of trafficking in women and girls, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[1] and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2] and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[3] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[4] and the Optional Protocol thereto,[5] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[6] and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[7] and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others,[8] as well as relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and the Human Rights Council on the issue,

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.
[2] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.
[3] Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.
[4] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[5] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.
[6] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[7] Ibid., vol. 2171, No. 27531.
[8] Ibid., vol. 96, No. 1342.

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Recognizing the crucial importance of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which entered into force on 25 December 2003 and provided for the first time an internationally agreed definition of the crime of trafficking in persons, aimed at the prevention of trafficking in persons, the protection of its victims and the prosecution of its perpetrators,

Reaffirming the provisions pertaining to trafficking in women and girls contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the strategic objective on the issue of trafficking contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,[9]

Reaffirming also the commitment made by world leaders at the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit and the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims,

Welcoming in particular the efforts of States, United Nations bodies and agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, including the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010,

Welcoming the adoption by the International Labour Conference, at its 103rd session, on 11 June 2014, of the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) of the International Labour Organization, which specifies that measures to be taken for the prevention of forced or compulsory labour shall include specific action against trafficking in persons for the purposes of forced or compulsory labour,

Welcoming also the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-eighth session,[10] in which the Commission urged governments at all levels, relevant United Nations entities and international and regional organizations and invited national human rights institutions where they exist, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector, employer organizations, trade unions, the media and other relevant actors, as applicable, to take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly women and girls, including the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, to discourage, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labour, and to review and adopt laws, regulations and penalties necessary to deal with this issue and publicize them to emphasize that trafficking is a serious crime,

Welcoming further the observance of the first World Day against Trafficking in Persons, on 30 July 2014,

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[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[10] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 7* (E/2014/27), chap. I, sect. A.

Noting with appreciation the steps taken, including the reports of human rights treaty bodies and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Rapporteur of the Council on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, and by United Nations agencies and other concerned intergovernmental and governmental organizations, within their existing mandates, as well as civil society, to address the serious crime of trafficking in persons, and encouraging them to continue doing so and to share their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible,

Noting the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons,[11] especially women and children, and the fact that part of her task is to integrate a gender- and age-specific perspective throughout the work of her mandate, inter alia, through the identification of gender- and age-specific vulnerabilities in relation to the issue of trafficking in persons,

Acknowledging the inclusion of gender related crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[12] which entered into force on 1 July 2002,

Bearing in mind that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons, and to rescue victims as well as provide for their protection, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

Seriously concerned that an increasing number of women and girls are being trafficked, including to developed countries, as well as within and between regions and States, and that men and boys are also victims of trafficking, including for sexual exploitation,

Recognizing that certain efforts against trafficking in persons lack the gender and age sensitivity needed to address effectively the situation of women and girls, who are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour, services and other forms of exploitation, thus highlighting the need to incorporate a gender- and age-sensitive approach into all anti-trafficking efforts,

Recognizing also the need to address the impact of globalization on the particular problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls,

Recognizing further that poverty, unemployment, lack of socioeconomic opportunities, gender based violence, discrimination and marginalization are some of the contributing factors that make persons vulnerable to trafficking,

Recognizing the heightened vulnerability of women and girls in humanitarian situations, including in conflict and post-conflict environments, natural disasters and other emergency environments, to trafficking,

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[11] See Human Rights Council resolution 26/8.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

Recognizing also the need to reinforce efforts regarding the provision of relevant documents, such as birth registration documents, in order to lower the risk of being trafficked and to help to identify victims of trafficking in persons,

Recognizing further that, despite the progress made, challenges to preventing and combating trafficking in women and girls remain and that further efforts should be made to adopt adequate legislation and programmes to implement it and to continue improving the collection of reliable data disaggregated by sex and age and statistics that would allow proper analysis of the nature, extent and risk factors of trafficking in women and girls,

Recognizing the importance of exploring the link between migration and trafficking in persons in order to further efforts to protect women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse,

Concerned about the use of new information technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of exploitation of the prostitution of others, for trafficking in women as brides, for exploiting women and children and for child pornography, paedophilia and any other forms of sexual exploitation of children,

Concerned also about the increasing activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from international trafficking in persons, especially women and children, without regard to dangerous and inhuman conditions and in flagrant violation of national laws and international standards,

Recognizing that victims of trafficking are particularly exposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that women and girl victims are often subject to multiple forms of discrimination and violence, including on the grounds of their gender, age, ethnicity, disability, culture and religion, as well as their origin, and that those forms of discrimination themselves may fuel trafficking in persons,

Noting that some of the demand for prostitution and forced labour is met by trafficking in persons in some parts of the world,

Acknowledging that women and girl victims of trafficking, on account of their gender, are further disadvantaged and marginalized by a general lack of information on or awareness and recognition of their human rights and by the stigmatization often associated with trafficking, as well as by the obstacles they meet in gaining access to accurate information and recourse mechanisms in cases of violation of their rights, and that special measures are required for their protection and to increase their awareness,

Encouraging the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty ninth session to consider the issue of trafficking in women and girls within the framework of the theme for 2015 on the review of progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and on opportunities for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda

Reaffirming the importance of bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on best practices, of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Reaffirming also that global efforts, including international cooperation and technical assistance programmes, to eradicate trafficking in persons, especially women and children, demand the strong political commitment, coordinated and coherent efforts and active cooperation of all Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination,

Recognizing that policies and programmes for prevention, protection, rehabilitation, repatriation and reintegration should be developed through a gender- and age-sensitive, comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, with concern for the security of the victims and respect for the full enjoyment of their human rights and with the involvement of all actors in countries of origin, transit and destination,

Convinced of the need to protect and assist all victims of trafficking, with full respect for the human rights of the victims,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General,[13] which provides information on measures by States and activities within the United Nations system to tackle trafficking in women and girls;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to Member States and United Nations entities that have submitted information on measures and activities undertaken to tackle trafficking in women and girls, and urges Member States and United Nations entities that have not done so to submit the requested information;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which focus on trafficking in persons for the removal of organs[14] and on challenges in developing rights-based responses to trafficking,[15] including clarifying the parameters of international legal definitions, addressing the root causes of trafficking and identifying ways in which the mandate can further contribute to the global movement against trafficking;

4. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[1] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2] taking into consideration the central role of those instruments in the fight against trafficking in persons, and urges States parties to those instruments to implement them fully and effectively;

5. *Urges* Member States to consider signing and ratifying and States parties to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[4] and the Optional Protocol thereto,[5] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[6] and the Optional Protocols thereto,[16] and the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[17] as well as the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)[18] and the Protocol thereto,

[13] A/69/224.
[14] A/68/256.
[15] A/HRC/26/37.
[16] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution 66/138, annex.
[17] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.
[18] Ibid., vol. 39, No. 612.

the Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81),[19] the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97),[20] the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111),[21] the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138),[22] the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143),[23] the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181),[24] the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182),[25] and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), of the International Labour Organization;

6. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media, to fully and effectively implement the relevant provisions of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons[26] and the activities outlined therein;

7. *Welcomes* the efforts of Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls, and encourages them to further enhance their efforts and cooperation, including by sharing their knowledge, technical expertise and best practices as widely as possible;

8. *Encourages* the United Nations system to mainstream, as appropriate, the issue of trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, into its broader policies and programmes aimed at addressing economic and social development, human rights, the rule of law, good governance, education, health and natural disaster and post-conflict reconstruction;

9. *Welcomes* the focus given by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to ending violence against women and to increasing women's access to economic opportunities, as well as its work on building effective partnerships for the empowerment of women, which will contribute to the efforts to combat trafficking in persons;

10. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify their efforts to address, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters the trafficking of women and girls for all forms of exploitation and in this regard to put in place or enhance preventive measures, including legislative measures and the imposition of appropriate sanctions, to deter exploiters of trafficked persons, as well as ensure their accountability;

11. *Also calls upon* Governments to strengthen measures aimed at empowering women and girls by, inter alia, enhancing their participation in society, including through education and skills training, and to take further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness of and inadequate housing for women in order to reduce their vulnerability to being trafficked;

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[19] Ibid., vol. 54, No. 792.
[20] Ibid., vol. 120, No. 1616.
[21] Ibid., vol. 362, No. 5181.
[22] Ibid., vol. 1015, No. 14862.
[23] Ibid., vol. 1120, No. 17426.
[24] Ibid., vol. 2115, No. 36794.
[25] Ibid., vol. 2133, No. 37245.
[26] Resolution 64/293.

12. *Further calls upon* Governments to take appropriate measures to address the factors that increase vulnerability to being trafficked, including poverty and gender inequality, as well as other factors that encourage the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriage, forced labour and organ removal, in order to prevent and eliminate such trafficking, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, including public officials engaging in or facilitating human trafficking, through, as appropriate, criminal and/or civil measures;

13. *Calls upon* Governments, the international community and all other organizations and entities that deal with conflict, post-conflict, disaster and other emergency situations to address the heightened vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking and exploitation and associated gender-based violence and to include the prevention of the trafficking of such women and girls in all national, regional and international initiatives;

14. *Urges* Governments to devise, enforce and strengthen effective gender- and age-sensitive measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy that integrates a human rights perspective, and to draw up, as appropriate, national action plans in this regard;

15. *Also urges* Governments to ensure that the prevention of and responses to trafficking continue to take into account the specific needs of women and girls, especially in addressing specific forms of exploitation, such as sexual exploitation and domestic servitude;

16. *Further urges* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support and allocate resources to strengthen preventive action, in particular education for women and men, as well as for girls and boys, on gender equality, self-respect and mutual respect, and campaigns, carried out in collaboration with civil society, to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels, including awareness-raising campaigns targeting groups that are at increased risk of becoming victims of trafficking;

17. *Reiterates* the importance of continued coordination among, inter alia, the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Rapporteur of the Council on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication in their activities in fulfilment of their mandates;

18. *Urges* Governments to strengthen measures to eliminate sex tourism demand, especially for children, through all possible preventive actions, including legislative measures;

19. *Also urges* Governments to develop educational and training programmes and policies and to consider, as appropriate, enacting legislation aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children;

20. *Encourages* Member States to set up or strengthen national programmes and to engage in bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation, including by forging regional initiatives or plans of action,[27] to address the problem of trafficking in persons through, inter alia, the enhancement of information-sharing, data disaggregated by sex and age, specific data collection and other technical capacities, and mutual legal assistance, as well as the combating of corruption and laundering of proceeds derived from trafficking, including for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation, and to ensure, as appropriate, that such agreements and initiatives are particularly responsive to the problem of trafficking as it affects women and girls;

21. *Calls upon* all Governments to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, recognizing its increasing occurrence for purposes of sexual exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation and abuse, sex tourism and forced labour, and to bring to justice and punish the offenders and intermediaries involved, including public officials involved with trafficking in persons, whether local or foreign, through the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse occurs, in accordance with due process of law, as well as to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

22. *Urges* Governments to take all appropriate measures to ensure that victims of trafficking are not penalized or prosecuted for acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked and that they do not suffer from revictimization as a result of actions taken by Government authorities, and encourages Governments to prevent, within their legal framework and in accordance with national policies, victims of trafficking in persons from being prosecuted for their illegal entry or residence;

23. *Invites* Governments to consider setting up or strengthening a national coordinating mechanism, for example, a national rapporteur or an inter-agency body, with the participation of civil society, as appropriate, including non-governmental organizations, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, root causes, factors and trends in trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, and to include data on victims of trafficking disaggregated by sex and age;

24. *Encourages* Governments and relevant United Nations bodies, from within existing resources, to take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly women and girls, including the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, to discourage, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including

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[27] Such as the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking, the Action Plan for the Asia-Pacific region of the Asian Regional Initiative against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (see A/C.3/55/3, annex), the initiatives of the European Union on a comprehensive European policy and programmes on trafficking in human beings, as expressed most recently in the European Union plan on best practices, standards and procedures for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings, adopted in December 2005, the activities of the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, the Organization of American States Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, and the activities of the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration in this field.

sexual exploitation and forced labour, to publicize the laws, regulations and penalties relating to this issue and emphasize that trafficking is a serious crime;

25. *Calls upon* concerned Governments to allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide access to appropriate programmes for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance in a language that they can understand and health care, including for HIV/AIDS, and by taking measures to cooperate with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims;

26. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and civil society organizations, to undertake or strengthen campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations, rights and responsibilities with respect to migration, as well as information on the risks of irregular migration and the ways and means used by traffickers, so as to enable women to make informed decisions and to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking;

27. *Also encourages* Governments to review and strengthen, as appropriate, the enforcement of relevant labour and other laws within their territories or jurisdictions that are aimed at, or have the effect of, requiring business enterprises, including recruitment agencies, to prevent and combat human trafficking in supply chains, and to periodically assess the adequacy of such laws and address any gaps;

28. *Invites* the business sector to consider the adoption of ethical codes of conduct to ensure decent work and to prevent any form of exploitative practices that foster trafficking;

29. *Encourages* Governments to intensify collaboration with non-governmental organizations to develop and implement gender- and age-sensitive programmes for effective counselling, training and reintegration into society of victims of trafficking and programmes that provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims;

30. *Urges* Governments to provide or strengthen training for, and to raise awareness among, law enforcement, judicial, immigration and other relevant officials on the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons, including the sexual exploitation of women and girls, and in this regard calls upon Governments to ensure that the treatment of victims of trafficking, especially by law enforcement officials, immigration officers, consular officials, social workers and other first response officials, is conducted with full respect for the human rights of those victims and with gender and age sensitivity and observes the principles of non-discrimination, including the prohibition of racial discrimination;

31. *Invites* Governments to take steps to ensure that criminal justice procedures and witness protection programmes are sensitive to the particular situation of trafficked women and girls and that they are supported and assisted, as appropriate, in making complaints to the police or other authorities without fear and being available when required by the criminal justice system, and to ensure that during this time they have access to gender- and age-sensitive protection and, as appropriate, social, medical, financial and legal assistance, including the possibility of obtaining compensation for damages suffered;

32. *Also invites* Governments to intensify efforts aimed at the speedy disposition of cases of trafficking in persons and, in cooperation with, inter alia,

intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to devise, enforce and strengthen systems and mechanisms for combating trafficking in persons;

33. *Further invites* Governments to encourage media providers, including Internet service providers, to adopt or strengthen self-regulatory measures to promote the responsible use of media, particularly the Internet, with a view to eliminating the exploitation of women and children, in particular girls, which could foster trafficking;

34. *Invites* the business sector, in particular the tourism, travel and telecommunications industries, relevant recruitment agencies and mass media organizations, to cooperate with Governments in eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, including through the dissemination by the media of information regarding the dangers of trafficking, the means used by traffickers, the rights of trafficked persons and the services available to victims of trafficking;

35. *Stresses* the need for the systematic collection of data disaggregated by sex and age and comprehensive studies at both the national and the international levels and the development of common methodologies and internationally defined indicators to make it possible to develop relevant and comparable figures, and encourages Governments to enhance information-sharing and data-collection capacity as a way of promoting cooperation to combat the trafficking problem;

36. *Invites* Governments, United Nations bodies, agencies and special mechanisms, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to undertake collaborative and joint research and studies on trafficking in women and girls that can serve as a basis for policy formulation or change;

37. *Invites* Governments, with the support of the United Nations, when necessary, and other intergovernmental organizations, taking into account best practices, to formulate training manuals and other informational materials and provide training for law enforcement, judicial and other relevant officers, and medical and support personnel, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of women and girl victims;

38. *Encourages* Governments and relevant intergovernmental bodies and international organizations to ensure that military, peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel deployed in conflict, post-conflict and other emergency situations are provided with training on conduct that does not promote, facilitate or exploit trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual exploitation, and to raise the awareness of such personnel of the potential risks to victims of conflict and other emergency situations, including natural disasters, of being trafficked;

39. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenants on Human Rights[28] to include information and disaggregated statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to their respective committees and to work towards developing a common methodology and statistics to obtain comparable data;

[28] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

40. *Invites* States to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

41. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report that compiles information on successful interventions and strategies, as well as the gaps, in addressing the gender dimensions of the problem of trafficking in persons and provides recommendations on the strengthening of human rights-based, gender- and age-sensitive approaches within comprehensive and balanced efforts to address trafficking in persons.

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Advancement of women

Malawi:* draft resolution

Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/117 of 9 December 1998, 56/128 of 19 December 2001, 67/146 of 20 December 2012 and 68/146 of 18 December 2013, Commission on the Status of Women resolutions 51/2 of 9 March 2007,[1] 52/2 of 7 March 2008[2] and 54/7 of 12 March 2010[3] and Human Rights council resolution 27/22 of 24 September 2014,

Reaffirming that the Convention on the Rights of the Child[4] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[5] together with the Optional Protocols thereto,[6] constitute an important contribution to the legal framework for the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls,

Reaffirming also the Beijing Declaration[7] and Platform for Action,[8] the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 7* (E/2007/27), chap. I, sect. D.

[2] Ibid., *2008, Supplement No. 7* (E/2008/27), chap. I, sect. D.

[3] Ibid., *2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. D.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[5] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[6] Ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378; and resolution 66/138, annex.

[7] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[8] Ibid., annex II.

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century",[9] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[10] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[11] and their 5-year, 10-year and 15-year reviews, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration[12] and the commitments relevant to women and girls made at the 2005 World Summit[13] and reiterated in Assembly resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals",

Recalling the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, adopted in Maputo on 11 July 2003, which contains, inter alia, undertakings and commitments on ending female genital mutilation and marks a significant milestone towards the abandonment and ending of female genital mutilation,

Recalling also the decision of the African Union, adopted in Malabo on 1 July 2011, to support the adoption by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session of a resolution banning female genital mutilation,

Recalling further the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session that the Economic and Social Council recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a decision to consider the issue of ending female genital mutilation at its sixty-seventh session under the agenda item entitled "Advancement of women",[14]

Recognizing that female genital mutilations are an irreparable, irreversible abuse that impacts negatively on the human rights of women and girls, affecting about 100 million to 140 million women and girls worldwide, and that each year an estimated further 3 million girls are at risk of being subjected to the practice throughout the world,

Reaffirming that female genital mutilations are a harmful practice that constitutes a serious threat to the health of women and girls, including their psychological, sexual and reproductive health, which can increase their vulnerability to HIV and may have adverse obstetric and prenatal outcomes as well as fatal consequences for the mother and the newborn, and that the abandonment of this harmful practice can be achieved as a result of a comprehensive movement that involves all public and private stakeholders in society, including girls and boys, women and men,

Concerned about evidence of an increase in the incidence of female genital mutilations being carried out by medical personnel in all regions in which they are practised,

Recognizing that negative discriminatory stereotypical attitudes and behaviours have direct implications for the status and treatment of women and girls

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[9] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[10] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[11] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[12] Resolution 55/2.

[13] See resolution 60/1.

[14] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2012/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A.

and that such negative stereotypes impede the implementation of legislative and normative frameworks that guarantee gender equality and prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex,

Recognizing also that the campaign of the Secretary-General entitled "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the database on violence against women have contributed to addressing the elimination of female genital mutilations,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations system to end female genital mutilations, in particular the commitment of 10 United Nations entities[15] announced in their joint inter-agency statement of 27 February 2008 on eliminating female genital mutilation, as well as the Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change, of the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, to accelerate the elimination of the practice,

Commending the continued efforts and actions undertaken by States, individually and collectively, regional organizations and United Nations agencies for the elimination of female genital mutilation as well as the implementation of resolution 67/146,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[16]

Noting with regret that the Secretary-General did not submit an in-depth multidisciplinary report, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/146, on the root causes of and contributing factors to the practice of female genital mutilations, its prevalence worldwide and its impact on women and girls, including evidence and data, analysis of progress made to date and action-oriented recommendations for eliminating this practice on the basis of information provided by Member States, relevant actors of the United Nations system working on the issue and other relevant stakeholders,

Deeply concerned that, despite the increase in national, regional and international efforts and the focus on the abandonment of female genital mutilations, the practice continues to persist in all regions of the world,

Deeply concerned also that a tremendous gap in resources continues to exist and that the shortfall in funding has severely limited the scope and pace of programmes and activities for the elimination of female genital mutilations,

1. *Stresses* that the empowerment of women and girls is key to breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health, including sexual and reproductive health, and calls upon States parties to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child[4] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[5] as well as their commitments to implement the Declaration on the Elimination of

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[15] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, United Nations Development Programme, Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Population Fund, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Fund for Women and World Health Organization.

[16] A/69/211.

Violence against Women,[17] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[10] the Beijing Platform for Action[8] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[9] and of the special session of the Assembly on children;[18]

2. *Calls upon* States to enhance awareness-raising and formal, non-formal and informal education and training in order to promote the direct engagement of girls and boys, women and men and to ensure that all key actors, Government officials, including law enforcement and judicial personnel, immigration officials, health-care providers, civil society, community and religious leaders, teachers, employers, media professionals and those directly working with girls, as well as parents, families and communities, work to eliminate attitudes and harmful practices, in particular all forms of female genital mutilations, that negatively affect girls;

3. *Also calls upon* States to strengthen advocacy and awareness-raising programmes, to mobilize girls and boys to take an active part in developing preventive and elimination programmes to address harmful practices, especially female genital mutilations, and to engage community and religious leaders, educational institutions, the media and families and provide increased financial support to efforts at all levels to end discriminatory social practices;

4. *Urges* States to condemn all harmful practices that affect women and girls, in particular female genital mutilations, whether committed within or outside a medical institution, and to take all necessary measures, including enacting and enforcing legislation, to prohibit female genital mutilations and to protect women and girls from this form of violence, and to end impunity;

5. *Also urges* States to complement punitive measures with awareness-raising and educational activities designed to promote a process of consensus towards the elimination of female genital mutilations, and further urges States to protect and support women and girls who have been subjected to female genital mutilations and those at risk, including by developing social and psychological support services and care, and to take measures to improve their health, including sexual and reproductive health, in order to assist women and girls who are subjected to the practice;

6. *Further urges* States to promote gender-sensitive, empowering educational processes by, as appropriate, reviewing and revising school curricula, educational materials and teacher-training programmes and elaborating policies and programmes of zero tolerance for violence against girls, including female genital mutilations, and to further integrate a comprehensive understanding of the causes and consequences of gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls into education and training curricula at all levels;

7. *Urges* States to ensure that the protection and provision of support to women and girls subject to, or at risk of, female genital mutilation are an integral part of policies and programmes that address the practice, and to provide women and girls with a coordinated, specialized, accessible quality multisectoral response which includes legal, psychological, health-care and social services;

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[17] Resolution 48/104.

[18] Resolution S-27/2, annex.

8. *Calls upon* States to ensure that national action plans and strategies on the elimination of female genital mutilations are comprehensive and multidisciplinary in scope and incorporate clear targets and indicators for the effective monitoring, impact assessment and coordination of programmes among all stakeholders;

9. *Urges* States to take, within the general framework of integration policies and in consultation with affected communities, effective and specific targeted measures for refugee women and women migrants and their communities in order to protect girls from female genital mutilations, including when the practice occurs outside the country of residence;

10. *Calls upon* States to develop information and awareness-raising campaigns and programmes to systematically reach the general public, relevant professionals, families and communities, including through the media and featuring television and radio discussions, on the elimination of female genital mutilations;

11. *Urges* States to pursue a comprehensive, culturally sensitive, systematic approach that incorporates a social perspective and is based on human rights and gender-equality principles in providing education and training to families, local community leaders and members of all professions relevant to the protection and empowerment of women and girls in order to increase awareness of and commitment to the elimination of female genital mutilations;

12. *Also urges* States to ensure the national implementation of international and regional commitments and obligations undertaken as States parties to various international instruments protecting the full enjoyment of all human rights and the fundamental freedoms of women and girls;

13. *Calls upon* States to develop policies and regulations to ensure the effective implementation of national legislative frameworks on eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilations, and to put in place adequate accountability mechanisms at the national and local levels to monitor adherence to and implementation of these legislative frameworks;

14. *Also calls upon* States to develop unified methods and standards for the collection of data on all forms of discrimination and violence against girls, especially forms that are underdocumented, such as female genital mutilations, and to develop additional indicators to effectively measure progress in eliminating the practice;

15. *Urges* States to allocate sufficient resources to the implementation of policies and programmes and legislative frameworks aimed at eliminating female genital mutilations;

16. *Calls upon* States to develop, support and implement comprehensive and integrated strategies for the prevention of female genital mutilations, including the training of social workers, medical personnel, community and religious leaders and relevant professionals, and to ensure that they provide competent, supportive services and care to women and girls who are at risk of or who have undergone female genital mutilations, and encourage them to report to the appropriate authorities cases in which they believe women or girls are at risk;

17. *Also calls upon* States to support, as part of a comprehensive approach to eliminate female genital mutilations, programmes that engage local community practitioners of female genital mutilations in community-based initiatives for the abandonment of the practice, including, where relevant, the identification by communities of alternative livelihoods for them;

18. *Calls upon* the international community, the relevant United Nations entities and civil society and international financial institutions to continue to actively support, through the allocation of increased financial resources and technical assistance, targeted comprehensive programmes that address the needs and priorities of women and girls at risk of or subjected to female genital mutilations;

19. *Calls upon* the international community to strongly support, including through increased financial support, a second phase of the United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children's Fund Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change, which is running until 2017, as well as national programmes focused on the elimination of female genital mutilations;

20. *Stresses* that some progress has been made in combating female genital mutilations in a number of countries using a common coordinated approach that promotes positive social change at the community, national, regional and international levels, and recalls the goal set out in the United Nations inter-agency statement[15] that female genital mutilations be eliminated within a generation, with some of the main achievements being obtained by 2015, in line with the Millennium Development Goals;

21. *Encourages* men and boys to take positive initiatives and to work in partnership with women and girls to combat violence and discriminatory practices against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilations, through networks, peer programmes, information campaigns and training programmes;

22. *Calls upon* States, the United Nations system, civil society and all stakeholders to continue to observe 6 February as the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation and to use the day to enhance awareness-raising campaigns and to take concrete actions against female genital mutilations;

23. *Calls upon* States to improve the collection of quantitative and qualitative data, which are crucial for evidence-based legal and policy development, programme design and implementation, and the monitoring of the elimination of female genital mutilation;

24. *Calls upon* the international community, as it moves towards the post-2015 development framework, to positively consider including the issue of eliminating female genital mutilations in the framework;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, individually and collectively, take into account the protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls against

female genital mutilations in their country programmes, as appropriate and in accordance with national priorities, in order to further strengthen their efforts in this regard;

26. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-first session, an in-depth multidisciplinary report on the root causes of and contributing factors to the practice of female genital mutilations, its prevalence worldwide and its impact on women and girls, including evidence and data, analysis of progress made to date and action-oriented recommendations for eliminating this practice on the basis of information provided by Member States, relevant actors of the United Nations system working on the issue and other relevant stakeholders.

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Sixty-ninth session
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Agenda item 64 (a)
Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Argentina, Burkina Faso, Canada, Italy, Netherlands, Peru, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia: draft resolution

Child, early and forced marriage

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 68/148 of 18 December 2013 on child, early and forced marriage,

Recalling its resolutions 68/146 of 18 December 2013 on the girl child and 67/144 of 20 December 2012 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, as well as Human Rights Council resolution 24/23 of 27 September 2013, entitled "Strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage: challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps",[1]

Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[3] and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[3] as well as other relevant human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child[4] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[5]

Reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[6] as well as the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/68/53/Add.1), chap. III.
[2] Resolution 217 A (III).
[3] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[5] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[6] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

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Development,[7] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[8] and the outcome documents of their review conferences,

Welcoming the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-eighth session,

Welcoming also the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage,[9] the summary report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the panel discussion on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage[10] and the summary report of the panel discussion of the General Assembly held on 5 September 2014,

Recognizing that child, early and forced marriage is a harmful practice that violates human rights and that such violations have a disproportionately negative impact on women and girls, and underscoring States' human rights obligations and commitments to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls,

Deeply concerned about the continued prevalence of child, early and forced marriage worldwide and about the fact that approximately 14 million girls are married every year before they reach 18 years of age and that more than 700 million women and girls alive today were married before their eighteenth birthday,

Noting with concern that the continued prevalence of child, early and forced marriage has slowed the achievement of shared development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and their overarching aims, including in the areas of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, poverty reduction, education and health, including sexual and reproductive health, and recognizing that child, early and forced marriage continues to impair sustainable and inclusive economic growth and social cohesion,

Recognizing that child, early and forced marriage is inherently linked to deep-rooted gender inequalities, norms and stereotypes, and harmful practices, perceptions and customs that are obstacles to the full enjoyment of human rights and that the persistence of child, early and forced marriage places children, in particular the girl child, at risk of being exposed to and encountering various forms of discrimination and violence throughout their lives,

Noting with concern that poverty and insecurity are among the root causes of child, early and forced marriage and that child, early and forced marriage remains common in rural areas and among the poorest communities, and recognizing that child, early and forced marriage is itself a barrier to development and helps to perpetuate the cycle of poverty and that the risk of child, early and forced marriage is also exacerbated in conflict and humanitarian crisis situations,

Recognizing that child, early and forced marriage undermines women's and girls' autonomy and decision-making in all aspects of their lives and continues to be

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[7] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[8] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[9] A/HRC/26/22 and Corr.1.

[10] A/HRC/27/34.

an impediment to improvements in the educational, economic and social status of women in all parts of the world and that the empowerment of and investment in girls is critical for economic growth, including the eradication of poverty, as well as the meaningful participation of girls in all decisions that affect them,

Noting with concern that child, early and forced marriage disproportionally affects girls who have received little or no formal education and is itself a significant obstacle to educational opportunities for girls and young women, in particular girls who are forced to drop out of school owing to marriage and/or childbirth, and recognizing that educational opportunities are directly related to women's and girls' empowerment, employment and economic opportunities and to their active participation in economic, social and cultural development, governance and decision-making,

Recognizing that child, early and forced marriage constitutes a serious threat to multiple aspects of the physical and psychological health of women and girls, including but not limited to their sexual and reproductive health, significantly increasing the risk of early and frequent pregnancy, maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity, obstetric fistula and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, as well as increasing vulnerability to various forms of violence, including physical, psychological and sexual violence, and that every girl and woman at risk of or affected by these practices must have equitable access to quality services like education, counselling, shelter, sexual, psychological and reproductive health services and medical care,

1. *Urges* all States to enact, harmonize and strictly uphold laws and policies ending child, early and forced marriage and protecting those at risk and ensure that marriage is entered into only with the informed, free and full consent of the intended spouses;

2. *Calls on* States, with the participation of relevant stakeholders, including girls, religious and community leaders, civil society, women's and human rights groups, men and boys, and youth organizations, to develop and implement holistic, comprehensive and coordinated responses and strategies to eliminate child, early and forced marriage and to support already married adolescents, including through the sharing of best practices across borders;

3. *Urges* Governments to promote and protect the human rights of all women and girls, including their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, and to adopt and accelerate the implementation of laws, policies and programmes that protect and enable the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[7] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[8] and the outcome documents of their review conferences;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the inclusion of a target on eliminating all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, in the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,[11] and recognizes its importance in the final framework for the post-2015 development

[11] A/68/970.

agenda in order to help ensure progress towards the elimination of child, early and forced marriage as a barrier to development and the full realization of women's and girls' human rights;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly a comprehensive report before the end of its [...] session on progress towards ending child, early and forced marriage worldwide since the issuance of the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,[9] with particular emphasis on high-prevalence countries, best practices for programmes aimed at ending the practice and supporting already married women and girls, gaps in research and implementation, and legal reforms and policies related to this matter, using information provided by Member States, United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes, civil society and other relevant stakeholders;

6. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the issue of child, early and forced marriage under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children", taking into account the multifaceted and worldwide nature of the issue of child, early and forced marriage.

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Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay: draft resolution

Rights of the child

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming all its previous resolutions on the rights of the child in their entirety, the most recent of which is resolution 68/147 of 18 December 2013, recognizing in particular the importance of its resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, in which it adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[1] and welcoming the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of its adoption in 2014,

Emphasizing that the Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols to the Convention,[2] and calling for their universal ratification and effective implementation, as well as that of other human rights instruments,

Recalling all international human rights conventions and the protocols thereto and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,[3]

Reaffirming that the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[2] Ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution 66/138, annex.
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

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survival and development, provide the framework for all actions concerning children,

Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples[4] of 2007, as well as the high-level meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held on 22 and 23 September 2014,

Reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[5] the United Nations Millennium Declaration[6] and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",[7] and recalling the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[8] the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum,[9] the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,[10] the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition,[11] the Declaration on the Right to Development[12] and the Declaration of the commemorative high-level plenary meeting devoted to the follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children, held in New York from 11 to 13 December 2007,[13] the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010,[14] the outcome document, entitled "The future we want", adopted at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,[15] and the outcome document of the third Global Conference on Child Labour, held in Brasilia from 8 to 10 October 2013, and recalling the World Congresses against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, held in Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996, in Yokohama, Japan, from 17 to 20 December 2001 and in Rio de Janeiro from 25 to 28 November 2008,

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General on progress made towards achieving the commitments set out in the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly[16] and on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in Assembly resolution 68/147,[17] as well as the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children[18] and the report of the Special

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[4] Resolution 61/295, annex.

[5] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[6] Resolution 55/2.

[7] Resolution S-27/2, annex.

[8] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[9] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

[10] See resolution 2542 (XXIV).

[11] *Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.

[12] Resolution 41/128, annex.

[13] Resolution 62/88.

[14] Resolution 65/1.

[15] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[16] A/69/258.

[17] A/69/260.

[18] A/69/264.

Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict,[19] whose recommendations should be carefully studied, taking fully into account the views of Member States,

Reaffirming that States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights, including the rights of the child,

Acknowledging the important role played by national governmental structures for children, including, where they exist, ministries and institutions in charge of child, family and youth issues and independent ombudspersons for children or other national institutions for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child,

Recognizing that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children, in the best interests of the child, and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

Noting with appreciation the work to promote and protect the rights of the child carried out by all relevant organs, bodies, entities and organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, by relevant mandate holders and special procedures of the United Nations and by relevant regional organizations, where appropriate, and intergovernmental organizations, and recognizing the valuable role of civil society, including non-governmental organizations,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains negatively affected by the world financial and economic crisis, and reaffirming that eradicating poverty continues to be the greatest global challenge facing the world today, recognizing its impact beyond the socioeconomic context,

Profoundly concerned also that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical, in an increasingly globalized environment, as a result of the persistence of poverty, social inequality, inadequate social and economic conditions, pandemics, in particular HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, non-communicable diseases, lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, environmental damage, climate change, natural disasters, armed conflict, foreign occupation, displacement, violence, terrorism, abuse, trafficking in children and their organs, all forms of exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation of children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism, neglect, illiteracy, hunger, intolerance, discrimination, racism, xenophobia, gender inequality, disability and inadequate legal protection, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

Expressing deep concern that, despite the recognition of the right of the child to express his or her views freely on all matters affecting him or her, and bearing in mind their evolving capacities, children are still seldom seriously consulted and involved in such matters owing to a variety of constraints and impediments and that the full implementation of this right in many parts of the world has yet to be fully realized,

Deeply concerned that children disproportionately suffer the consequences of discrimination, exclusion, inequality and poverty,

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[19] A/69/212.

Deeply concerned also that more than 6,300,000 children under the age of 5 die each year, mostly from preventable and treatable causes, owing to inadequate or lack of access to integrated and quality maternal, newborn and child health care and services, early childbearing and health determinants, such as safe drinking water and sanitation, safe and adequate food and nutrition, and that mortality remains highest among children belonging to the poorest and most marginalized communities,

Recognizing that a strong focus is needed on poverty, deprivation and inequality to prevent and protect children from violence and to promote the resilience of children, their families and communities,

I

Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto

1. *Welcomes* the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[1] the human rights treaty with the largest number of ratifications, and acknowledges that the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto[2] contain a comprehensive set of international legal standards for the protection and well-being of children;

2. *Recognizes* that, while progress has been made, many challenges remain, and that in this regard the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to be held on 20 November 2014, is an occasion for States to reflect on implementation gaps and to undertake additional measures to ensure that the rights of children are fully realized;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the entry into force on 14 April 2014 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure,[20] and encourages States to consider its ratification and implementation;

4. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 1 to 10 of its resolution 68/147, and urges States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto as a matter of priority and to implement them effectively and fully;

5. *Urges* States parties to withdraw reservations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or the Optional Protocols thereto and to consider reviewing regularly other reservations with a view to withdrawing them in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;[5]

6. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, taking into account the adoption of its general comments, and its actions to follow up on its concluding observations and recommendations on the implementation of the Convention, and calls upon all States to strengthen their cooperation with the Committee, to comply in a timely manner with their reporting obligations under the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto, in accordance with the guidelines elaborated by the Committee, and to take into account its recommendations, observations and general comments on the implementation of the Convention;

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[20] Resolution 66/138, annex.

II
Promotion and protection of the rights of the child and non-discrimination against children

Non-discrimination

7. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 11 to 14 of its resolution 68/147, and calls upon States to ensure the enjoyment by all children of all their civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights without discrimination of any kind;

8. *Notes with concern* the large number of children belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, migrant children, refugee or asylum-seeking children, internally displaced children and children of indigenous origin who are victims of discrimination, including racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stresses the need to incorporate special measures, in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child and respect for his or her views and the child's gender-specific needs, into education programmes and programmes to combat these practices, and calls upon States to provide special support and to ensure equal access to services for those children;

Registration, family relations, adoption and alternative care

9. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 15 to 19 of its resolution 68/147, and urges all States parties to intensify their efforts to comply with their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to protect children in matters relating to registration, family relations and adoption or other forms of alternative care, and, in cases of international parental or familial child abduction, encourages States to facilitate, inter alia, the return of the child to the country in which he or she resided immediately before the removal or retention, while taking into consideration the principle of the best interests of the child;

Economic and social well-being of children

10. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 20 to 29 of its resolution 68/147, paragraphs 42 to 52 of its resolution 61/146 of 19 December 2006, on children and poverty, and paragraphs 37 to 42 of its resolution 60/231 of 23 December 2005, on children living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, and calls upon all States and the international community to create an environment in which the well-being of the child is ensured, including by strengthening international cooperation in this field and by implementing their previous commitments relating to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals, the right to education, including equal access to quality education, and measures to promote human rights education, including the safe and beneficial use of the Internet as a tool for the advancement of the child's social and educational well-being, the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including efforts to address the interlinked root causes of preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age and the situation of children living with or affected by HIV and AIDS and to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and, through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking water and sanitation, the right to food for all and the right to an adequate standard of living, including housing and clothing;

11. *Calls upon* all States to mobilize all necessary resources with the best interests of children as a primary consideration in order to realize children's rights, including marginalized and disadvantaged groups of children, and to ensure that children are protected from adverse economic impacts;

12. *Strongly recommends* that the promotion and protection of the rights and well-being of children be well reflected in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, including by ending extreme poverty, reducing inequalities and eliminating all forms of violence against children, including harmful practices;

Child labour

13. *Calls upon* all States to translate into concrete action their commitment to the progressive and effective eradication of child labour that is likely to be hazardous, to interfere with the child's education or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development, to eliminate immediately all forms of child labour and to promote education as a key strategy in this regard;

14. *Recognizes* that poverty and social exclusion, labour mobility, discrimination and lack of adequate social protection and educational opportunity, as well as lack of birth registrations, all influence child labour;

Prevention and elimination of violence against children

15. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 34 to 39 of its resolution 68/147 and paragraphs 47 to 62 of its resolution 62/141 of 18 December 2007, on the elimination of violence against children, condemns all forms of violence against children, and urges all States to implement the measures set out in paragraph 34 of its resolution 68/147;

16. *Urges* Member States to take effective and appropriate legislative and other measures to prohibit, prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against children, including traditional and customary harmful practices in all situations, and to strengthen international, national and local cooperation and mutual assistance in this regard;

17. *Also urges* Member States to exercise due diligence, investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and end impunity, and provide protection as well as universal access to comprehensive social, health and legal services for all victims and survivors, to ensure their full recovery and reintegration into society and, bearing in mind the importance for all women and girls to live free from violence, to address the structural and underlying causes of violence against women and girls through enhanced prevention measures, research and strengthened coordination and monitoring and evaluation;

18. *Reaffirms* that violence against children is never justifiable and that it is the duty of States to protect children, including those in conflict with the law, from all forms of violence and human rights violations and to exercise due diligence to prohibit, prevent and investigate acts of violence against children, eliminate impunity and provide assistance to the victims, including preventing revictimization;

19. *Strongly condemns* the abduction of children, and calls upon all States to take all the appropriate measures to secure their unconditional release, rehabilitation and reintegration and their reunification with their families;

20. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to advance the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on violence against children[21] and to promote the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children, including through her regional and thematic consultations and field missions, as well as thematic reports addressing emerging concerns, such as the risks associated with information and communications technologies, for the protection of children from violence;

21. *Welcomes* the adoption of the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[22] and encourages States to take effective measures for their dissemination and implementation;

Promoting and protecting the rights of children, including children in particularly difficult situations

22. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 40 to 48 of its resolution 68/147, and calls upon all States to promote and protect all human rights of all children and to implement programmes and measures that provide them with special protection and assistance, including access to health care, quality education and social services, as well as voluntary repatriation, reintegration, family tracing and family reunification, in particular for children who are unaccompanied, and to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration;

Migrant children

23. *Recognizes* the large and growing number of migrant children, including those unaccompanied or separated from their parents, and especially those who find themselves in a vulnerable situation by attempting to cross international borders without the required travel documents;

24. *Takes into special consideration* the situation of child refugees and child asylum seekers, in particular those unaccompanied or separated from their parents;

25. *Reaffirms* the need to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women and children, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

26. *Expresses its commitment* to protect the human rights of migrant children, given their vulnerability, particularly unaccompanied migrant children, and to provide for their health, education and psychosocial development, ensuring that

[21] See A/61/299.

[22] See Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/18.

the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in policies of integration, return and family reunification;

Children and the administration of justice

27. *Takes note with appreciation* of Human Rights Council resolution 25/6 of 27 March 2014 on the rights of the child: access to justice for children, and recalls in this regard the thematic report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children on promoting restorative justice for children;

28. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 49 to 57 of its resolution 68/147, and calls upon all States to respect and protect the rights of children alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law, as well as children of persons alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law;

29. *Encourages* States parties to establish specialized juvenile justice systems by means of law, procedures and institutions and to ensure that deprivation of liberty is used as a measure of last resort through the adoption of alternative measures such as diversion and restorative justice;

Prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

30. *Reaffirms* paragraph 58 of its resolution 68/147, and calls upon all States to prevent, criminalize, prosecute and punish all forms of the sale and trafficking of children, including for the purposes of the transfer of organs of the child for profit, child slavery, sexual exploitation of children, child prostitution and child pornography, with the aim of eradicating those practices and the use of the Internet and other information and communications technologies for these purposes, to combat the existence of a market that encourages such criminal practices and take measures to eliminate the demand that fosters them, as well as to address the needs of victims effectively and take effective measures against the criminalization of children who are victims of exploitation;

Children affected by armed conflict

31. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 59 to 70 of its resolution 68/147, condemns in the strongest terms all violations and abuses committed against children in armed conflict, and in this regard urges all States and other parties to armed conflict that are engaged, in contravention of applicable international law, including humanitarian law, in the recruitment and use of children, in patterns of killing and maiming of children and/or rape and other sexual violence against children, acknowledging that sexual violence in these situations disproportionately affects girls, and in recurrent attacks on schools and/or hospitals and related personnel, as well as in all other violations and abuses against children, to take time-bound and effective measures to end them;

32. *Recalls*, in accordance with international humanitarian law, that indiscriminate attacks against civilians, including children, are prohibited and that they shall not be the object of attack, including by way of reprisal or excessive use of force, condemns such practices resulting in the killing and maiming of children, and demands that all parties immediately put an end to such attacks;

33. *Urges* States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, other relevant international and regional organizations and civil society to give serious attention to, and protect and assist child victims of, all violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict, in accordance with international humanitarian law, including the First to Fourth Geneva Conventions;[23]

34. *Calls upon* States to protect children affected by armed conflict, in particular from violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and to ensure that they receive timely, effective humanitarian assistance, noting the efforts taken to end impunity by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators, and calls upon the international community to hold those responsible for violations accountable, inter alia, through the International Criminal Court;

35. *Remains deeply concerned* over the lack of progress on the ground in some situations where parties to conflict continue to violate with impunity the relevant provisions of applicable international law relating to the rights and protection of children in armed conflict;

36. *Expresses deep concern* about attacks as well as threats of attacks in contravention of applicable international law against schools and/or hospitals, and protected persons in relation to them, welcomes the publication of the guidance note on Security Council resolution 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011 on protecting schools and hospitals by the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and notes the adoption of Security Council resolution 2143 (2014) of 7 March 2014;

37. *Welcomes* the "Children, not soldiers" campaign initiated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the United Nations Children's Fund, in collaboration with other United Nations partners, aimed at ending and preventing the recruitment and use of children by armed forces by 2016, and requests the Special Representative to report on progress in her next report to the General Assembly;

III
Progress achieved and challenges in protecting children from discrimination and overcoming inequalities in the light of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

38. *Reaffirms* that the Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child and that States parties to the Convention shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized therein, while bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols to the Convention;

39. *Recognizes* that the full realization of children's rights requires the adoption and implementation of comprehensive laws, policies and programmes for all children;

40. *Also recognizes* that financial and material poverty, or conditions directly and uniquely imputable to such poverty, should never be the only justification for

[23] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

the removal of a child from parental care, for receiving a child into alternative care or for preventing his or her reintegration, but should be seen as a signal for the need to provide appropriate support to the family;

41. *Expresses its concern* that children are at particular risk, both within and outside the home, of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect and maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse and exploitation;

42. *Calls upon* States parties to respect and ensure the rights set forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto and to take all appropriate measures to ensure that all children are protected against all forms of discrimination, violence, including sexual violence, abuse, exploitation and traditional and customary harmful practices, which can be harmful to the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development;

43. *Calls upon* all Member States to take all appropriate measures to safeguard the realization of the rights of the child in a manner conducive to his or her fullest possible social inclusion and individual development;

44. *Encourages* States to consider the guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights[24] in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes to implement the post-2015 development agenda;

45. *Recognizes* that, in order to further the positive impacts achieved through the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Millennium Development Goals, the post-2015 development agenda will require a focus on the most marginalized and excluded populations, including children, which are most at risk and in need of protection;

46. *Also recognizes* that children may face additional barriers in gaining access to justice, and reaffirms the duty of States to respect and ensure an effective remedy and access to justice for each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind;

47. *Calls upon* all States to include the relevant provisions to protect children from discrimination and overcome inequalities, and in particular:

(a) To take all necessary and effective measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination motivated by intolerance or prejudice of any kind;

(b) To incorporate special measures into formal and non-formal education and other programmes to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance affecting children;

(c) To address the root causes of inequality and remove barriers that prevent children, particularly those who suffer the worst deprivations in society, from gaining access to education, health care, adequate nutritious food, sanitation, clean water, protection and other services necessary for their survival, growth and development;

(d) To develop strategies for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against girls, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, rape, sexual abuse and harmful traditional or customary practices, including female

[24] A/HRC/21/39.

genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriage and forced sterilization, by enacting and enforcing legislation and, where appropriate, by formulating comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to protect girls, as well as by promoting awareness-raising and social mobilization initiatives for the protection of their rights;

(e) To eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and women and take measures to address stereotyped gender roles and other prejudices based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes, and to mainstream in this context a gender perspective into all development and human rights policies and programmes, including those relating to children and those specific to the girl child;

(f) To take measures to collect and disaggregate relevant information, including statistical and research data, as appropriate, in order to identify the barriers faced by children, especially those from marginalized and vulnerable groups, in exercising their rights;

(g) To develop and strengthen the collection, analysis and dissemination of data for national statistics on children and, as far as possible, to use data disaggregated by relevant factors that may lead to disparities and other statistical indicators at the subnational, national, subregional, regional and international levels, in order to develop and assess social and other policies and programmes, so that economic and social resources are used efficiently and effectively for the full realization of the rights of the child;

(h) To take steps to design and implement preventive and comprehensive anti-bullying measures, including in educational settings, that address bullying and peer-directed aggression against children, which could include the training of educators and family members and also raising awareness of this matter among children;

(i) To take all necessary measures to ensure universal access to birth registration of all children immediately after birth, including those living in remote areas, by, inter alia, removing barriers that impede their registration, moving towards the provision of free birth registration, ensuring the existence of a simple, effective, expeditious and accessible birth registration system, including late birth registration, guaranteeing the right of every child to a name and nationality, respecting the selection by parents of a name of their own choosing, respecting the child's preservation of his or her identity and, as far as possible, protecting the child's knowing and being cared for by his or her parents;

(j) In accordance with article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to continuously raise awareness of the importance of birth registration at the national, regional and local levels, to ensure free or low-fee late birth registration, to ensure that all legal and procedural impediments to the registration of children who reside in a State party are addressed and to ensure that children who have not been registered enjoy their human rights and have access without discrimination to health care, quality education, protection from violence, safe drinking water and sanitation, and other basic services;

(k) To design and implement programmes to provide pregnant adolescents and adolescent mothers with education, social services and support, to enable them to continue and complete their education and protect them from discrimination, as well as to ensure a healthy and safe pregnancy;

(l) To develop and implement educational programmes and teaching materials, including comprehensive evidence-based education for human sexuality, based on full and accurate information, for all adolescents and youth, in a manner consistent with their evolving capacities, with the appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, with the involvement of children, adolescents, youth and communities, and in coordination with women's, youth and specialized non-governmental organizations, in order to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women of all ages, to eliminate prejudices and to promote and build decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills for the development of respectful relationships and relationships based on gender equality and human rights, as well as teacher education and training programmes for both formal and non-formal education;

(m) To take all measures necessary to ensure that children enjoy the right to the highest attainable standard of health, in keeping with existing obligations, including by ensuring that all children and adolescents have access to quality, free or affordable, gender-sensitive, appropriate health-care services, including age-appropriate health-care programmes in the area of sexual and reproductive health, taking into account the needs and evolving capacities of the child;

(n) To adopt legislative and other appropriate measures, including cross-sectoral approaches, to ensure the full realization by all children, including girls, of the right to education, including their access to quality education, on the basis of equal opportunity, in a manner conducive to their fullest possible social inclusion and individual development, including through the provision of compulsory primary education that is available free to all, and to take all appropriate measures to make all other levels and all forms of education available and accessible to all children without discrimination;

(o) To take all appropriate measures to ensure protection and safety for all children, including the prevention of sexual exploitation, during and after situations of risk, situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, by adopting and implementing prevention and response programmes, including those related to the recruitment of children by armed forces and armed groups, to ensure the physical and psychological recovery, family reunification and social reintegration of these children and ensure that such recovery, reintegration and rehabilitation take place in an environment which fosters the well-being, health, self-respect and dignity of the child;

48. *Calls upon* all Member States, and invites the United Nations system, to strengthen international cooperation to ensure the realization of the rights of the child, including the most marginalized and excluded children, inter alia, by supporting national initiatives that give more emphasis to the development of the most marginalized and excluded children, as appropriate, and by reinforcing international cooperation measures in fields of research or on the transfer of technology such as assistive technologies;

49. *Calls upon* the relevant entities, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, donor institutions, including the international financial institutions, and bilateral donors to support, when requested, national initiatives, including development programmes for the most marginalized and excluded children, financially and technically, as well as to enhance effective international cooperation and partnership to strengthen knowledge-sharing and capacity-building,

with particular attention to policy development, programme development, research and professional training;

IV
Follow-up

50. *Recognizes* the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, its increased level of activity and the progress achieved since the establishment of the mandate of the Special Representative, and, bearing in mind its resolution 63/241 of 24 December 2008 and paragraphs 35 to 37 of its resolution 51/77 of 12 December 1996, recommends that the Secretary-General extend the mandate of the Special Representative for a further period of three years;

51. *Decides*:

(a) To request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the rights of the child containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in the present resolution, with a focus on the right to education;

(b) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the children and armed conflict agenda;

(c) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to continue to submit annual reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the violence against children agenda, and, in accordance with paragraph 71 of its resolution 68/147, to ensure that the effective performance and the sustainability of the core activities of the mandate of the Special Representative are maintained;

(d) To invite the Secretary-General to commission an in-depth global study on children deprived of liberty, funded through voluntary contributions and conducted in close cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies and offices, including but not limited to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, as well as the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice, and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including civil society, academia and children, and to include for consideration by Member States best practices and recommendations for action to effectively realize the rights of the child, and also to invite the Secretary-General to submit the conclusions of the study to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session;

(e) To request the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the

challenges remaining on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography agenda;

(f) To invite the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to present an oral report on the work of the Committee and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventieth session as a way t enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

(g) To continue its consideration of the question at its seventieth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children", focusing section III of the resolution entitled "Rights of the child" on the right to education.

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Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Iceland, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru and Uruguay: draft resolution

Combating bullying and other types of violence against children

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that the Convention on the Rights of the Child[1] constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and emphasizing that the States parties to the Convention shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized therein,

Reaffirming all its previous resolutions on the rights of the child and its resolution 68/130 of 18 December 2013 on policies and programmes involving youth,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 19/37 on the rights of the child, adopted by the Council in 2012,

Recalling that the World Programme of Action for Youth[2] stressed the need to develop physical and social environments that promote good health free from all types of violence and recommended that Governments and other relevant organizations sensitize youth to the personally and socially detrimental effects of violence in the family, community and society,

Acknowledging that the United Nations report on violence against children of 2006[3] was the first comprehensive global study on violence against children,

Bearing in mind that the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, entitled "Tackling violence in schools: a global perspective: bridging the gap between standards and practice", launched on

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[2] Resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.
[3] United Nations Children's Fund, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, Independent Expert for the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children; available at www.unicef.org.

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6 March 2012, stressed the importance of promoting a change in attitudes of adults, families and wider communities to tackle bullying and cyberbullying at schools, as a means to strengthen the child's capacity to enjoy the full range of human rights,

Taking note with appreciation of the 2014 report of the United Nations Children's Fund on violence against children, entitled "Hidden in plain sight: a statistical analysis of violence against children", which highlighted the global nature of violence among peers, bullying and cyberbullying and their negative long-term effects on the well-being of children,

Stressing that bullying and cyberbullying, expressed through verbal abuse, intimidation, humiliation, sexual abuse, gang violence and other forms of cruel and degrading treatment, have a deep impact on the enjoyment of the human rights of girls, boys and young people,

Aware of the urgent need to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against children and youth, including bullying and cyberbullying, and recognizing that these attitudes take place particularly at school, but are also influenced by events in the wider community such as families and other environments,

Recognizing that bullying is a reflection of the existence of wider violent environments that affect the behaviour of children, and recognizing the important role of media and civil society in its prevention,

Recognizing also that girls are often at greater risk of being exposed to and encountering bullying and cyberbullying as an expression of gender-based violence,

1. *Expresses profound concern* about the high prevalence of violence between peers, bullying and cyberbullying in different parts of the world, and their negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights of girls, boys and young people;

2. *Recognizes* that bullying and cyberbullying are often associated with discrimination and stereotypes, and that attention must be paid to prevent all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against girls and young women, children with disabilities, migrant children, indigenous children and children belonging to minorities;

3. *Urges* Member States:

(a) To take all necessary and effective child and youth-sensitive measures to prevent and respond to all forms of violence, in particular violence between peers, bullying and cyberbullying;

(b) To generate comprehensive statistical information disaggregated by sex, age, disability, national or social origin on the problem of bullying, as a basis for the elaboration of effective public policies;

(c) To mobilize public awareness, involving families, communities and civil society organizations, with the participation of children and young people, regarding peer violence, bullying and cyberbullying, with a gender perspective;

(d) To establish and strengthen mechanisms, including with appropriate support of international cooperation, upon request, with the effective participation of children and youth, for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation relating to matters that affect them, including measures to tackle bullying and cyberbullying;

4. *Requests* the relevant United Nations agencies and mechanisms to provide, upon request from Member States, technical cooperation and support to enhance national capacities to address bullying and cyberbullying;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through his Special Representative on Violence against Children, to prepare, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund and in collaboration with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, a report on bullying and cyberbullying and their causes and effects, which contains recommendations, good practices and guidelines to prevent and respond to this problem;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit the report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.